FARMER'S MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

Don't overlook the farmers' conventions to be held in Raleigh next week. On Wednesday night in the auditorium of the Agricultural Building the State Farmers Association and the State Horticultural Society will meet. The first named organization will assemble at 7 p. m. and at 8.30 p. m. give way to the Horticultural Society. Addresses will then be made by Dr. Liberty H. Bailey, one of the leading agricultural educators of the world, and editor of "Country Life in America," by two representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture, Col. G. B. Brackett, Pomologist, and Prof. W. A. Taylor, Field Pomologist, and by Dr. Frederick W. Taylor who is to manage the agricultural exhibit at the World's Fair at St. Louis. To hear these men will in itself be worth a trip to Raleigh.

On Thursday night, as will be seen from the calls published on page 1, the annual meetings of the State Agricultural Society and the State Tobacco Growers' Association will be held. The recent combine of British and American trusts will make the last named meeting one of more than ordinary importance, while the Agricultural Society is to have a splendid exhibition of the work that is being done by the Agricultural Department of the A. and M. College. An interesting program has been prepared, and we are sure that our young friends (most of them have contributed articles to The Progressive Farmer) will make a showing creditable to the College and to the cause of agricultural education.

A WORLD-CONQUEROR'S RISE AND FALL.

NAPOLEON. By the Hon. Thomas E. Watson. 719 pages. $2.50. The Macmillan Company, Publishers, 66 Fifth Avenue, New York.

"We shut our eyes, and see a picture which is richer than the richest page torn from romance. We see a lean, sallow, awkward, stunted lad step forth from the door of the old house and dis forth into the world, with no money in his pocket and no powerful friends to lift him over the rough places. He is only nine years old when he leaves home, and we see him weep bitterly as he bids his mother good-by. We see him at school in France, isolated, wretched, unable at first to speak the language, fiercely resenting the slights put upon his poverty, his ignorance, his family, his country—suffering but never subdued. We see him rise against troubles as the eagle breasts the storm. We see him lay the better half of the civilized world at his feet. We see him bring sisters and brothers from the island home and put crowns on their heads."

Such in brief is the story of the rise of Napoleon, "the moneyless lad from despised Corsica, who stormed the high places of the world, and by his own colossal strength of character, genius and industry took them." That it is a highly interesting subject no one will deny; that Mr. Watson handles it in a highly entertaining manner every one who reads his book will acknowledge. Its author has at last found his element; he is a born historian and biographer. We have never read a more interesting historical work than his "Story of France." A prominent judge said to us recently that it is the greatest book that has been written in the South since the war. The Life of Napoleon is in every respect its equal, and is in fact a continuation of it, for the "Story of France" ends with the consulate of Napoleon and from that time till Waterloo the story of Napoleon is the story of France.

"Napoleon" is as interesting as a novel. The reader is not burdened with wearisome statistics and plans of Napoleonic campaigns; he does get "the great Corsican's proper historical position, his true rating as a man and as a ruler."

The many slanders of Napoleon make Mr. Watson assume the attitude of defender. "If we would correctly judge Napoleon, let us keep our equilibrium and our standards of comparison; let us throw him into contrast, not with the ideal man, but with other rulers of his own time." Judged by such standards, it is asserted, he will be seen to be not better nor worse than other great conquerors. He was "a colossal mixture of the good and the bad, just as Cromwell was, just as Richelieu, Frederick and Bismarck were. * * * England's empire is built on force and fraud; Prussia's greatness rests on Frederick's crime against Silesia. France under Napoleon merely conformed to the well-known precedents."

"Cruelty and kindness, selfishness and generosity, loyalty and treachery, honesty and perfidy," says Mr. Watson, "are almost unmeaning terms if applied without qualification to Napoleon. Where his plans were not involved, he frequently manifested the human virtues in their highest form; where these plans were involved, he practiced all the vices without scruple or pity." This is doubtless a correct estimate of Napoleon's character, and a good illustration of it is found in the familiar story of the battle of Austerlitz. As the battle was drawing to a close thousands of Russian soldiers were retreating hastily across the frozen lakes. "Napoleon himself ordered the cannoneers to cease shooting at the fugitives, and to elevate their pieces so that the balls would fall on the ice. The balls fell, the ice cracked, and some two thousand Russians sank to watery graves." The next day, being near the spot, Napoleon saw one of the soldiers not yet dead, supporting himself on an ice floe and calling feebly for help. The conqueror's sympathies were aroused; by his orders, desperate and finally successful efforts were made to rescue the unfortunate man, and he was then carefully cared for. Sternly and pitilessly had Napoleon sent the two thousand to wretched deaths; there "his plans were involved." But to the solitary survivor, now that his plans were not involved, all of a friend's kindness was shown.

Our author's observations on Napoleon's relation to the democratic spirit are also very interesting. "As long as time shall last," says Mr. Watson, "his name will inspire not only the individual but the masses also. Despot though he became, in his innermost fibre he was a man of the people, crushing to atoms feudalism, caste, divine right, and hereditary imposture. * * * Distinctions of character, merit, conduct, talent, he could understand; distinctions of mere birth he abhorred. For the first time in the political life of the modern French, men became prouder of the fact that they were workers, doers of notable deeds, than that they were the fifteenth cousin of some spindle-shanked duke whose great-great-grandfather had held the stirrup when Louis XIII. had straddled his horse. * * * Napoleon knew that posterity would see at work, within the body of his despotism, the spirit of democracy. He knew that with his system of civil and social equality, and the absolute privilege of every citizen, however humbly born, to rise to the loftiest positions, no real despotism could be possible."

But the book must be read to be appreciated. It will convince anyone of Mr. Watson's ability to breathe the breath of life into the dry bones of history and biography.

A Thought for the Week.

In political life, whether a man acts without or within party lines is not of very great moment, if only he always acts honestly, fearlessly and effectively; but remember that it is necessary to be both efficient and upright, too. Parties are necessary. Without association and organization, and the necessary partial subordination of individual preferences, no great work can be done; but on the other hand, no man has a right to condone crime, to excuse moral shortcomings of any kind, because of alleged party necessity.—Theodore Roosevelt.

Chivalry's Ideal Man: The Oath of King Arthur's Knights.

To reverence their conscience as their king,
To break the heathen and uphold the Christ,
To ride abroad redressing human wrongs,
To speak no slander, no, nor listen to it,
To honor his own words as if his God's,
To lead sweet lives in purest chastity,
To love one maiden only, cleave to her,
To worship her by years of noble deeds,
Not only to keep down the base in man,
But teach high thought and amiable words,
And courtliness and the desire of fame
And love of truth and all that makes a man.

—Alfred Tennyson.

The Ideal of a Twentieth Century Sportsman.

To sportsmen, manly men, men of gentle mind and simple heart, brave men, fair men; to men who say to the weak: "May I?" and to the strong, "I will!"—to men to whom sham is dishonor and truth a guiding star; to men who look upon the sea, the plain, the forest, the mountain, the rising and setting sun, and the immutable heavens, with a deep sense of their own littleness in the great scheme of things—I dedicate this book.—Thomas W. Lawson's Dedication of his sumptuous new book, "The Columbia-Shamrock Races."

A Revolutionary Doubt.

There is beginning to appear in the public press of the more conservative class the question, more or less openly asked, Why should the total supply of anthracite coal for the use of a great nation be controlled by private owners, who have shown themselves conspicuously unfit for the responsibility? This is not a mere Socialist's cry against private property. It is merely the popularizing of the distinction made by all economists between property acquired by labor and property that consists in the control of a natural monopoly. There is labor concerned in the utilization of any natural monopoly, such as a mine or a natural gas well, but the labor cost is but a small element in the market price of the product. That price is governed not by free competition, but by the monopoly value fixed by agreement, and at times like the present becomes a scarcity price that bears no reasonable relation whatever to the labor cost or to legitimate interest and profit on the capital invested. Minerals found in the earth, like water and air, are in the last analysis proper subjects of private control only by the consent of society. They bear no resemblance to the grain which the farmer raises at a cost which is chiefly a labor cost, nor to the factory-made tool or cloth or vehicle. The supply of these mineral and other natural products is limited, and as it decreases the right of the public to a share in its control increases. An instructive illustration of this self-evident principle is found in the increasing public control of water rights in the arid West as the available supply becomes more and more important for irrigation. Now the people are asking whether private ownership in the case of the anthracite mines is not based on a falsely liberal idea of property—whether the vital interests of the whole people do not require public ownership by purchase, or at least a far more detailed and effectual regulation of the wages and prices than is now attempted by the mining laws. Of course the mere suggestion of transferring the ownership of the coal mines to the corrupt political machine of the State of Pennsylvania under present conditions seems absurd as a practical proposition. But the significant thing is that thoughtful and conservative men are becoming aroused to the anomalous powers granted by society to those who control some of our great staples, and the tremendous losses sustained by their dealing with public problems as a private quarrel. The time may come when the "coal barons" will look back upon this strike as the worst piece of folly of which they were ever guilty.—Chicago Standard.